



Louis H. Bruni
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WEBB COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEBB COUNTY SELF-HELP CENTER PROGRAM AWARDED MILLION DOLLAR GRANT

Webb County Judge Louis H. Bruni announced today that the Webb County CAA Self-Help Center Program has been awarded \$1,040,000 in grant funds through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) for the funding of two separate programs.

The first program is the TDHCA-Home Investment Partnership Contract for Deed Conversion Program which will assist colonia families to convert their contracts for deed into traditional mortgage notes. These colonia families will achieve homeownership through a repayable loan at 0% interest for the conversion of their contract for deed and additionally will be eligible for a forgivable loan of up to \$15,000 to assist with closing costs and necessary housing rehabilitation required to bring each home up to Colonia Housing Standards. All Webb County colonias are eligible to apply for this program provided they have water and sewer services.

“We have close to sixty colonias in Webb County, and all of them are in serious need of many services beginning with water and sewer,” said Judge Bruni, “Bringing the colonias up to standard is a huge task, and these grants are a big help in that direction.”

The second program successfully funded is also part of the TDHCA Home Investment Partnership Program and is the Owner Occupied Housing Program. The HOME Investment Partnership Owner Occupied Housing Program will assist sixteen homes of low to very low income colonia families with the reconstruction of their homes.

“This program is especially beneficial due to the fact that there are some families that previously have not qualified for housing rehabilitation programs because the cost to rehabilitate (up to \$15,000) is insufficient to bring the home up to Colonia Housing Standards,” explained Judge Bruni.

This Owner Occupied Housing Program allows the home to be reconstructed at a cost not to exceed \$30,000 per home. Many homes in Webb County’s colonias are beyond repair and would greatly benefit from reconstruction since they do not qualify for rehabilitation. All Webb County colonias are eligible to apply for this program provided they have water and sewer services. Both programs have a two year contract period, and are scheduled for completion in the spring of 2005.

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